GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1540
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
. LITERACY RATE AMONG SC /ST
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the low literacy note among the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs) against the national average in the country;

(b) if so, I he details thereof and reasons therefor, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the details of schemes introduced by the Government for imparting education to SCs/STs in the country; and

(d) the further steps taken by the Government to increase their literacy rate?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A. A.FATMI)

(a) and (b) : According to 2001 census the literacy rate of schedule castes was 54.69% and that of schedule tribes was 47.10% as against the national average of 64.84%. A statement showing State-wise., the literacy rates of all persons, SCs and STs as per 2001 census is enclosed. The reasons for illiteracy amongst various groups in the country including SCs/STs are various socio-economic factors like poverty, lack of awareness on the relevance of education, gender disparity, etc. amongst others.

(c) and (d) : The Uaiversalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate including those of SCs and STs in the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhlyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universaiizmg quality Elementary Education by 2010. To encourage education of SC/ST, free books are provided to such children under SSA programme. In addition, districts which are having significant SC/ST population are identified as special focus districts for targeted SSA inputs. Under the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, upper primary residential schools for girls give priority to girls from SC, ST, OBC and minority community to a minimum of 75% seats in such schools.

The National Literacy Mission aims to impart functional literacy to adult illiterates in the 15-35 age group. In the XI Plan, special focus would be given to SCs, STs, Minorities and rural women. Focus would also be on low literacy States, tribal areas, other disadvantaged groups and adolescents, Under the programmes of NLM the percentage of enrollment of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes learners is 23% and 12% respectively.